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COMMISSIONER

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
State Laboratory Institute
305 South Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

BUREAU OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL
Division of Epidemiology and Immunization
(617) 983-6800

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Dear Local Health Director, Health Officer, or Board of Health Member or Chair,

We are pleased to present the *Guide to Surveillance and Reporting*. Its purpose is to guide local boards of health through specific surveillance and reporting responsibilities for the diseases reportable to the Bureau of Communicable Disease Control of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The manual contains disease information, reporting guidelines, control recommendations and legal requirements. The Department of Public Health is placing increased emphasis on strengthening infectious disease surveillance and response and is focusing on providing more technical assistance to local boards of health.

This manual is designed for use by health directors, health agents, public health nurses, and other local health personnel who are responsible for infectious disease case investigation and follow-up in cities and towns in Massachusetts (including Visiting Nurses Associations [VNAs] that contract with local boards of health). While this manual is targeted to local boards of health, other healthcare professionals may wish to use this information to facilitate their understanding of local health department surveillance and reporting responsibilities and of how they can collaborate and play a role in strengthening timely and complete infectious disease reporting.

Two copies are being sent to each local board of health in Massachusetts. One copy is also being sent to VNAs and infection control departments at hospitals.

Local health departments play a key role in the state's infectious disease surveillance system. We very much appreciate your efforts to investigate and control diseases in your communities.

Sincerely,

Alfred DeMaria, Jr., MD
Assistant Commissioner

Robert Goldstein, MPH
Division Director

Allison Hackbarth, MPH
Managing Editor